News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Edmonton youth tackle homelessness

Edmonton, March 6, 2008 – Young Edmontonians are invited to tackle the issue of homelessness by expressing themselves through art. Details for Heart 2 Art, an art contest created for youth by youth, were unveiled today by the Edmonton Youth Council, whose members addressed elementary and junior high students at the Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts.

Youth between ages 5 and 19 can take part. Submissions, due by June 6, should address what it means to be homeless and what can be done to help the homeless. Submissions will be judged by an expert panel, with shortlisted artwork to be exhibited this summer and fall. Results will be announced in November. Top finishers are eligible to win prizes donated by local businesses and organizations.

"Homelessness is a complex matter and cannot be solved by simply building homes," said Justin Lui of the Youth Council. "We wanted to challenge Edmonton youth and raise their awareness about homelessness. We believe an art contest that appeals to all age groups is original and effective in getting youth to think about homelessness."

Heart 2 Art is supported by the Urban Development Institute - Greater Edmonton Chapter and the Canadian Home Builders Association - Edmonton Region. "We are excited to work with such a dynamic group of young Edmontonians who have chosen to address such an important issue," said Ray Watkins, representing the Urban Development Institute. Pat Adams, President of the Canadian Home Builders Association, agrees, "This is a tremendous opportunity for home builders to assist our youth in making a difference on an issue that impacts our community as a whole."

Details of the art contest, including rules and regulations, are being rolled out to Edmonton-area schools in the coming days. Information is also available at the Youth Council's website, www.ceyc.ca.

Created in 1994, Youth Council advises City Council and administration officials on programs and services related to youth.

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

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